This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Cancelled)**

2. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 15 wherein R_1 is phenyl.

3. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 15 wherein said solvent comprises an alcohol, an alkyl alkanoate, a ketone, or an ether.

4. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 15 wherein said solvent is an alkyl alcohol having 1 to about 5 carbon atoms.

5. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 15 wherein said alkyl alcohol is isopropanol.

6. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 15 wherein said acid resolving agent is a derivative of D-tartaric acid.

7. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 15 wherein said acid resolving agent is a tartaric acid derivative having formula $HO_2CCH[OC(O)R_3]CH[OC(O)R_3]CO_2H$ wherein each R_3, independently, is aryl having 6 to about 28 carbon atoms or aralkyl having 7 to about 28 carbon atoms.

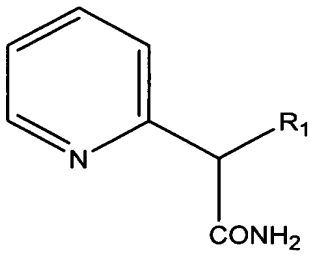
8. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 7 wherein R_3 is aralkyl having 7 to about 28 carbon atoms.

9. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 6 wherein said acid resolving agent is dibenzoyl-D-tartaric acid.

10. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 15 further comprising reacting said *d-threo* acid salts with aqueous base to form said *d-threo* piperidine acetamide.

11. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 10 further comprising reacting said *d-threo* piperidine acetamide with an alcohol having 1 to about 5 carbon atoms in the presence of acid to form a *d-threo* piperidine acetate.

12. **(Previously presented)** The process of claim 15 wherein said *d,l-threo* piperidyl acetamide stereoisomers are prepared by reacting a pyridine having formula:



with hydrogen in an alkanoic acid having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms in the presence of a catalyst to provide a mixture of *threo* and *erythro* piperidyl stereoisomers; and

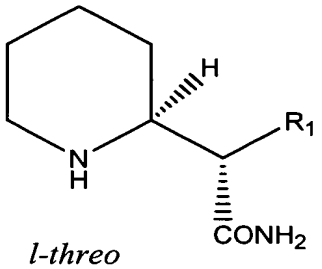
contacting said *erythro* stereoisomers with organic base, thereby converting said *erythro* piperidyl stereoisomers to *threo* piperidyl stereoisomers.

13. **(Previously presented)** The product of the process of claim 15.

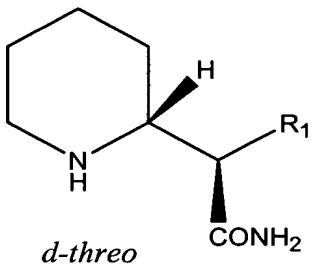
14. **(Cancelled)**

15. **(Currently amended)** A synthetic process for preferentially forming *d-threo* acid salts of *d-threo* piperidyl acetamide stereoisomers with respect to *l-threo* piperidyl acetamide stereoisomers comprising the steps of:

providing a mixture of said *d,l-threo* piperidyl acetamide stereoisomers having formulas:



l-threo



d-threo

wherein R_1 is aryl having about 6 to about 28 carbon atoms;

reacting said stereoisomers with an acid resolving agent in an organic solvent, thereby forming acid salts; ~~and~~

precipitating said acid salts; and isolating said acid salts.